

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claim 2 is currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 22 and 24 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1 and 3-27 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 2, 4, 7-20, 22 and 24-27. By way of this amendment and reply, the features of 'objected to' claim 2 have been incorporated into presently pending independent claim 1 (the only independent claim in this application), and 'objected to' claims 22 and 24 have each been placed in independent form to include the features of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, all of the presently pending claims are in allowable form in accordance with the indications made in the Office Action.

Objection to the Specification:

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to because of informalities noted on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. By way of this amendment and reply, those informalities have been corrected.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,815,645 to Downs. Due to the incorporation of the features of 'objected to' (and now cancelled) claim 2 into presently pending independent claim 1, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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